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*Ursinus College*

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## Number 12.

## EDITORIALS.

THE announcement of the election of Professor Dechant to the Principalship of the Academy is received with general favor. Professor Dechant is a graduate of Princeton University and has an established reputation as a teacher and as an administrator. Prior to his collegiate course he had seven years experience in academy and public school work, and since graduation he has held an important position in the State Normal School at Trenton, N. J.

## LITERARY CONTRIBUTIONS.

### THE MISSION OF CHIVALRY.

First Prize Oration Delivered at the Pennsylvania Inter-collegiate Oratorical Contest by H. E. Bodder, 1900.

The historic past is replete with lessons for the prophetic future. Times without number, the hand that unlocks the casket of history alike unrolls the scroll of prophecy.

Destiny points to the finger-boards erected by forgotten nations, and bids us look and learn.



The civilization of the nineteenth century may not only find light for guidance in the experience of the past; but when, in sincere inquiry, we scrutinize the different cycles of the world's development we find that many of our institutions and ideals are neither more nor less than the fruitage of the seed sown in an earlier period.

The centuries which proved to be especially rich in world thought are known in history as the Middle Ages,—a period of harassing doubt, of dark superstition and of dire oppression. But out of the dark-

ness came a hand that subdued the chaos and out of demons molded men. The efficacy of this refining power lay in the spirit of chivalry.

Chivalry is not, as many suppose, the dream of romance, but belongs to real history. It was the direct product and culmination of feudalism.

During the twelfth century, among the vine clad hills of sunny France, it blossomed forth as the flower of the system of vassalage which gave form to society in the Middle Age.

The dominant feature of chivalry was its system of knighthood. Every baronial castle of the wealthier nobles was a school of chivalry. The child at the age of seven became a page and at the age of fourteen the page became a squire. Having passed another seven years of sound training, he was at length ready for the long desired degree of knighthood.

The candidates spent the night in fasting and prayer and the next morning took the oath of knighthood amid ceremonies so impressive, "That when they rose, knighted from kneeling, some were pale as at the passing of a ghost, some flushed and others dazed, as one who wakes half blinded at the coming of a light." Bearing in mind the origin of chivalry, its dominant features, and characteristic ideals, we shall be able to appreciate its mission.

Its mission was first a social one. Chivalry did not destroy war, but it tended to soften its natural roughness and cruelty. The knight who, upon hearing that his mortal enemy was in want of wine, stopped the siege, sent him a cask



from his own supplies and then continued the war, was simply carrying out the true spirit of chivalry.

About the middle of the third crusade, the Christian hero of that crusade—Richard the Lion Hearted—became ill, and as he lay in his tent, his body was racked by a vehement fever. When his enemy, Saladin, the mighty chief of the Saracens, learned this, he sent him the choicest fruits to tempt his palate, and the most cool and delicious drinks to quench his burning thirst. Thus the spirit of the age established between these two hostile warriors a communication which, though transient, was nevertheless as amicable as if there had never existed any strife between the crescent and the cross.

One of the redeeming virtues of chivalry was that it laid the basis of the indulgent treatment of prisoners practised in our own system of warfare.

Another gem in the crown of knighthood was its respect for woman. From early boyhood, the page was taught to regard every "lady" as a being to whom adoration was due and toward whom he was to act on all occasions with the utmost modesty and respect. Then and there was born the spirit of American chivalry, the ideal of whose beautiful womanhood is virtue; and whose voice but a few weeks ago debarred from the halls of Congress Brigham H. Roberts because he breathed the poisonous atmosphere of polygamy.

In the second place, the mission of chivalry was an intellectual one. It was but natural that the system of chivalry should be a means of education. The age was characterized by its differences of opinion, and as one has said, "Difference of opinion begets doubt, doubt be-

gets inquiry, inquiry eventually leads to truth, and fortunate is he who comes to his knowledge by the sure method of honest doubt."

It helped to kindle a spirit of metaphysical discussion, and scholastic philosophy with its love of contention began to speculate upon the mysterious questions of metaphysics and theology. Even in the subdued light of untrained reason, there arose the subtle problems of the reality of universal ideas, ontology and freedom of the will. Imperfect as this philosophy was, it was a vast improvement upon the ignorance of the preceding ages. "Our public libraries are cemeteries of its departed reputation, the dust accumulated upon its untouched volumes speaks as forcibly as the grass that waves over the ruins of Babylon, and yet we cannot pretend to deny that Anselm, Abelard, Thomas Aquinas and Duns Scotus were men of acute understanding—the giants of their own generation."

Another fact by which chivalry eloquently pleads its cause with us to-day is that it developed a speech and a literature. The frozen and corrupt Latin had been serviceable enough for the stereotyped use of the church and the dry, monotonous exercises of the universities, but the living spirit of chivalry demanded something more responsive to its voice and more plastic to its touch; and the knight finding this in his mother tongue triumphantly ushered in the French, Italian, English and German languages and literature.

It was a time when conflicting ideas were seething in the minds of men, and when the poetic muse burst open the flood gates of the more gifted souls, there poured forth roaring torrents of chival-

ric verse which, as they subsided, were followed by the bubbling streams of simple heartfelt lays. Imbued with the spirit of poetry, chivalry flourished on the verdant plains of its infancy, and inspired one of the sons of France to produce the "Romant de la Rose." The echoes of its voice were heard beyond the snow crowned Alps, and the tender heart of Dante responded with the sublimesentiment and the emphatic cadences of the "Divine Comedy." It drifted over the waters, bade Chaucer sing its praises in melodious verse, and when he had embodied its very essence in the vivid delineations of the "Canterbury Tales," crowned him the "Father of English Poetry."

Lastly, the mission of chivalry was a moral one. Chivalry was not religion, but it began to pave the way for it. It was the first of those beacon lights which betokened the approach of the mighty hosts of spiritual warriors, who in the ceaseless march of Time have enlisted in the service of Christ and bared their bosoms to the thirsty steel so that unconquered, unsullied, unrivalled, there might be borne aloft in triumph the banner of the cross.

The honor of the knight was dearer to him than all the world. It was his all. He knew if he violated this honor it meant for him defeat, disgrace, death; and yet how beautifully solemn was the vow with which he pledged himself to relieve the poor, support the weak and comfort the comfortless! Has Christianity any more real or beautiful morality than this? Do you venture the assertion that chivalry never attained its end? Conceded; but neither has Christianity ever developed the perfect man.

Chivalry set up ideals, which had their effect upon the life of man though its

goal was never reached. The perfect gentleman is just as rare to-day as was the perfect knight in those days. Whatever may have been the moral deficiencies of chivalry, its fundamental principles were truly commendable. While it often made the knight a plunderer, it likewise made him a man of honor; while its environment made him seek individual honor, its binding oath diffused the broad spirit of altruism; while its tournaments made him slay man, it made him worship woman; while its wealth made a thousand fools, its virtue made the man.

Chivalry had its destined calling and fulfilled it well. It lopped off the vitiating excrescences of the social body and purged the foul corruption from its veins. It called into the unfathomable depths of chaos, and Cosmos answered the call. It transformed the demon of hate into the winged cherub of love. It erected the first literary monuments of England, France and Germany, and they have not been disintegrated by the ravages of time. It saturated the whole atmosphere of philosophy with the benign dew of altruism. And thus, notwithstanding the deficiencies of its system and the non-realization of its ideals, as the ocean of years rolls on it will ever be admitted that the mission of chivalry was a noble one, that it was in deed and in truth the prototype of modern civilization no less than the paragon of its own age.

#### THE TRUE MISSION OF OUR COLLEGES.

The pursuit of all mankind is happiness. There is no other basis upon which any tenable theory of training for youth may be built, except that the training



received tends in the highest degree toward those conditions of mind and body which will best serve to bring happiness to the individual educated and to those about him. That, at least, is the ideal toward which colleges must move with ever-quickenings strides. It is worth while just at the close of the nineteenth century, to step aside from the beaten paths and consider what may be worth the student's attention, as calculated to best fit him for his place in the world. We know that there has been a decided progress during the quarter which closes the century, yet there has been some criticism. It is with this thought in mind that we are questioning if the best has been done in our colleges and if they have performed their mission. For who of us has not seen graduates from the best colleges who are but ghastly mutilations of what God intended them, pieces of gorgeous patchwork, with forms of culture stuck to the outside of them and dangling in the wind. With all the original freshness and beauty and bloom of nature abstracted and nothing conspicuously left but the works of the tools of awkward and haggling teachers. Such results being manifold, it is evident that the methods employed by some colleges are erroneous, which will become manifest when the true relations of the college to the student are set forth. To do this better, we will first define education, then show how this development is obtained, and lastly the relations of colleges to this development.

Man is a creature endowed with living powers which are originally and vitally affiliated. Education is a drawing out of these powers or capacities; it is the development in symmetry and harmony of the inherent and latent capabilities of

the soul. The successful accomplishment of this development has always been the perplexing problem of educators, and in the solving of it every college has adopted methods in which it has hoped to surpass other colleges. Some use their students as the potter does his clay. But development is not a moulding; it is a growth which is the result of use, and will be proportionate to this use. To the student, then, there can be but one royal pathway to success, and that is study. By this is not meant time spent in leisurely elegance, but persistent, severe and vigorous application, study which gives birth to a discipline which is not found in flowery beds of indolence and ease, but at the goal of steep and rugged paths, and which tempts the scholar to prosecute his further studies into midnight vigils. Where or how he secures this discipline is of minor moment. One fact, however, is evident; it is not confined to our schools of learning. For many a man may be a Cincinnatus and abandon his plow in the furrow to sway the sceptre of an empire and guide her through the storm; or he may be a journeyman printer in Boston and send his kite into the crackling skies and compel the lightning of heaven to yield to his untutored philosophy. These were faithful students in the University of Common Sense, and are but examples of that vast number of young men who in the struggle of a laborious manual occupation are doing more to develop their energies and "to give the world the assurance of a man," than many a student whose name is enrolled on the catalogue of the best university of the land. Fine educational advantages, improved methods and select curricula are therefore not the passports to ideal development and human

greatness. Colleges may direct intelligently and suggest wisely, but even this can be done only after the student is won. Therefore whether a student sits at the feet of philosophy or science, whether he mingles with the busy, jostling crowd of a city or communes with nature in her more secluded nooks, whether he aspires to sway with burning periods the popular assembly, or decree judicial decisions, or guide statesmanship and diplomacy, the young man who aspires to such elevation must seek it at the cost of tremendous study.

Development being thus proportionate to the application of self, the sphere of the college is evident, and teaching is not to put into practice methods, neither is it the bolstering of a student up and over and through a curriculum. "It is intellectual companionship and contact of living mind with living mind," and no teacher is fit for his calling whose work has not inspired him and whose inspira-

tion is not contagious. Since hard work is the celestial ladder on whose rounds alone a man can hope to mount to success, the mind in its struggle up the dizzy height of thought needs the cheering stimulus of a mind whose radiant countenance is a mirror of the rewards that await the diligent spirit beyond the misty clouds of confusion that surround the student. As the teacher, so the college. Every college should be a hotbed of inspiration. The very air a student breathes should be laden with enthusiasm to goad him on with a burning, sleepless impulse which suffers all things, forgets the weak pleadings of sense, and, buoyed up by the invigorating influences of environment, labors unceasingly. Unless a college thus inspires its students, unless it wins their minds to think hard, it does not comprehend its mission, and its precepts will be as idle as a painted ship upon a painted ocean.

K. E. L., 1900.

## COLLEGE NEWS.

### STATE INTERCOLLEGIATE ORATORICAL CONTEST.

The eighth annual contest of the Pennsylvania Intercollegiate Oratorical Union was held at Ursinus on Friday evening, March 9. No event for many years, except the commencement exercises, has created such a widespread interest among the students and the people of the vicinity. The contest was advertised for miles around and Bomberger Hall was filled to the utmost of its usual seating capacity. Persons were present from all the neighboring towns and del-

egations of students from other institutions were in prominence especially large representations coming from Swarthmore College, Allentown College for Women and Perkiomen Seminary.

Ursinus carried off first honor in the contest, Howard E. Bodder, 1900, being awarded the prize of twenty-five dollars in gold for the excellent delivery of his oration on "The Mission of Chivalry." The second prize of fifteen dollars in gold was awarded to J. F. Heilman, of Gettysburg, who delivered a eulogy on Lincoln under the title of "Our Uncrowned King." Honorable mention was accorded



to Franklin and Marshall's representative, Eugene Le Fevre Herr, whose subject was "Democracy." The remaining orations were "Dawn in the East," an oration on the rise of China, delivered by Stuart Nye Hutchison, of Lafayette; "The Onward Sweep of Humanity," by Bird Thomas Baldwin, of Swarthmore; "Parallelism of Plant and Animal Life," by Victor J. Koch, of Muhlenberg, and "The Constitutional Rights of Our Annexed Territories," by Charles W. Startsmann, of Lehigh. The Judges were President Reed, of Dickinson College, Presi-Campbell, of Irving College, and the Hon. Clinton R. Woodruff, of Philadelphia.

The indefatigable efforts of the committee on arrangements were crowned with greatest success. The rostrum was a veritable garden of ferns and flowers and the uniform appearance of the speakers in their black gowns in contrast with the beautiful variety of plants made a strikingly pretty effect. The music was furnished by Geller's Orchestra, Norristown, and the "Ursinus College March" was one of the musical numbers. The reception following the contest was held in the Y. M. C. A. room, Library and other class rooms adjoining. Tables were set and light refreshments were served. The reception committee was conspicuously prominent in making the visitors at home and only expressions of the highest appreciation were heard from all strangers.

#### A NEW PRINCIPAL FOR URSINUS ACADEMY.

Prof. C. Ernest Dechant, A. B., Instructor in Mathematics at the State Normal School, Trenton, N. J., has been

elected Principal of the Academy of Ursinus College, his term of service to begin September, 1900.

Professor Dechant was graduated from Princeton University in 1895 with honors, and has since held his present position. Before entering college he taught in the public schools four years; at Palatinate College, Myerstown, one year; and was principal of schools at Berwick, Pa., two years. He has an established reputation as a teacher and as an administrator, and will no doubt meet with great success in the management of Ursinus Academy.

Professor Dechant's father was the late Rev. G. B. Dechant, of Catawissa, Pa., an honored minister of the Reformed Church.

#### Y. M. C. A.

At the last business meeting of the Association the following officers were elected to serve the coming year: President, J. Alexander, 1901; Vice-President, W. S. Keiter, 1901; Recording Secretary, W. R. Moyer, 1902; Corresponding Secretary, D. R. Krebs, 1902; Treasurer, A. G. Peters, 1903; Musical Director, N. D. Bartholomew, 1902.

#### SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY NOTES.

At the last regular business meeting of the Y. M. C. A., the following officers were elected for the coming school year: President, W. A. Reimert; Vice-President, David Baur; Secretary, C. A. Waltman; Treasurer, Carl H. Gramm; Musical Director, W. E. Garrett. Chairmen of Committees: Devotional, J. K. McKee; Missionary, A. R. Kepler; Social, J. M.



Stick; Federation, G. W. Kerstetter; Finance, P. E. Keller.

The Foreign Board met in Salem Reformed Church, Allentown, Pa., March 13 and 14. At this meeting, Miss Sadie Lea Weidner, of Fireside, Ohio, was appointed missionary to Japan. Rev. James I. Good, D. D., who presided as President of the meeting, also addressed the ladies of the Female College in that city.

### LOCALS.

The next Faculty reception will be held April 5.

C. B. Heinly, 1900, attended an entertainment at the National School of Oratory, Philadelphia, last week.

A concert will be given in Bomberger Hall, April 3, under the direction of Prof. Meier. An interesting program is being prepared, the leading features of which will consist of part-songs by a chorus of fifty voices and vocal and instrumental numbers by students and friends of the Musical Department. The soloists are: Stanleigh R. Meaker, Cello, and Theo. F. Meier, Violin.

Among the visitors on March 9, we noted: Rev. D. U. Wolff, '75, Blue Bell, Pa.; H. A. Feters, '92, Uwchland, Pa.; Prof. C. B. Davis, Franklin and Marshall; Miss Shafer, a teacher in Allentown College for Women, and Miss Furman, Teacher of Elocution in Swarthmore.

The Seniors are arranging a program for Class Day.

### ATHLETICS.

Athletic interest is centered at present in base ball and the track team.

Twenty-nine men responded to the first call for base ball candidates issued by Capt. J. C. Houck, 1901, some time ago. Outdoor practice has already been begun.

The prospects for a winning nine are bright. The competition for positions will be close. Seven of last year's team, viz., Houck, 1901, Kelley, 1901, Thomas, A., Rinker, 1900, Kugler, S. T., 1902, Kochenderfer, 1901, and Roth, 1903, are again applicants. A second nine last season was the means of developing a number of good players, who are promising aspirants this year. Some of the new men are also showing up well.

Following is a complete list of the candidates and the positions for which they

are applying:

Catchers,—Capt. Houck, 1901, Kelley, 1901; pitchers—Rice 1901, Halteman, 1903, Thomas, A., M. Laros, 1903; first base—Kelley, 1901, Smythe, 1901, Haines, 1903, Kaiser, A.; second base—Rinker, 1900, Houck, 1901, Hoffsommer, 1903; short-stop—Kugler, S. T., 1902, Rinker, 1900, Clinger, 1903, Hoffsommer, 1903; third base—Kugler, S. T., 1902, Kaiser, A., Clinger, 1903, Snyder, A.; out-field—Kochenderfer, 1901, Roth, 1903, Long, 1902, Matterness, 1901, Cole, 1903, Halteman, 1903, Lindaman, 1903, Fisher, 1902, Lentz, 1902, Hobson, 1903, Walt, A., Martin, A., Faringer, A., Baun, A., M. Laros, 1903.

The first game of the season will be played on the home grounds on Saturday, April 7, with Lebanon Valley College.

As this game is close at hand, it will necessitate hard practice. The complete schedule follows:

April 7, Lebanon Valley College at Collegeville.  
 April 18, Rutgers College at New Brunswick, N. J.  
 April 21, Hill School at Pottstown.  
 April 25, Medico-Chirurgical College at Collegeville.  
 April 28, Frankford A. A. at Frankford.  
 May 5, Albright College at Myerstown.  
 May 12, Goldey College at Collegeville.  
 May 19, Lebanon Valley College at Anville.  
 May 23, Rutgers College at Collegeville.  
 May 26, Goldey College at Wilmington, Del.  
 May 30, Pennsylvania Military College at Chester.  
 June 2, Albright College at Collegeville.  
 June 9, P. R. R. Y. M. C. A. at Philadelphia.  
 June 14, Alumni at Collegeville.

The interest in track athletics has been

lacking somewhat of late. Thus far, the candidates have been few. There are still a number of good sprinters in the college who have not yet come out for practice. The date for the relay races at the University of Pennsylvania is not far distant, and it is highly important that Ursinus should send her best team. The competitors of Ursinus will be stronger than ever. It is to be hoped that more men will come out and encourage the captain and manager in their efforts to secure a strong representative team. The following men have been training faithfully: Captain Casselberry, 1900, Emery, 1901, Smyth, 1901, Farnsler, 1901, Smith, 1903, and Brownback, A.

## ALUMNI PERSONALS.

'76, S. T. Rev. Chas. H. Coon, D. D., pastor of Trinity Reformed Church, Philadelphia, delivered his lecture on "Tissot's Pictures on the Life of Christ" before a large audience in the Church of the Ascension, Norristown, Pa. March 6.

'88, S. T. Rev. A. D. Wolfinger, Mt. Crawford, Va., has accepted a call from the Reformed Church at Lima, Ohio, and will enter upon his work in that place early in April.

'91. Wm. H. Knipe, A. B., M. D., attended the State Oratorical Contest held here on March 9. Dr. Knipe has an extensive practice at Limerick, Pa.

'93. Rev. J. M. S. Isenberg, B. D., is publishing a historical sketch of the Isenberg family in Pennsylvania.

'94, S. T. Rev. Frank Nelson Bleiler was born in Overton, Bradford County,

Pa., January 9, 1865. Early in life he moved with his parents to Sullivan County. At the age of sixteen he united with the Reformed Church at Dushore, Pa., during the pastorate of Rev. Phaon Kohler. In 1888 he entered Towanda Collegiate Institute where he remained several years. In 1891 he came to Ursinus and after spending a year in the College and two years in the School of Theology, he accepted a call from Brownback's Reformed Church, in Chester County, Pa. After a successful pastorate of three and a half years he resigned on account of failing health. On October 30, 1897, he was married to Miss Annie E. Frock, of East Coventry, Pa., Rev. Geo. H. Miller, '86, performing the ceremony.

In November, 1898, he accepted a call from the East Vincent Reformed Church, in Chester County, where he remained until his death which occurred on February 27, 1900.

The funeral was held on March 3. Interment was made at Brownback's. Rev. John H. Sechler, D. D., preached the funeral sermon. The following also took

part in the services: Rev. G. H. Miller, I. C. Fisher, J. M. S. Isenberg, H. H. Long and G. W. Royer.

## COLLEGE WORLD.

RUTGERS and New York will debate on April 20.

HAYERFORD will send a cricket team abroad this summer to contest with Oxford and Cambridge.

RICHMOND College has recently opened a scientific laboratory building costing \$25,000 and a memorial dormitory costing \$20,000.

THE oldest college in the world is Mohammed College, Cairo, Egypt, which was one thousand years old when Oxford was founded. It has an enrollment of 11,000 students.

THE annual commencement of the Carlisle Indian School was held on Thursday, March 15. The graduating class was the largest in the history of the institution.

THE Princeton track team which will compete in the races at Paris, will sail for Europe about the middle of June. The team will remain abroad about six weeks.

THE Harvard whist team defeated a team from the University of Pennsylvania, at Cambridge, Saturday, March 12.

AT a meeting of the Board of Trustees of Muhlenberg College, it was decided that the Executive Committee of the board draw up plans for the construction of new buildings and submit the same at the next meeting in June.

THE endowment fund of Leland Stanford University is now about \$30,000,000.

PRESIDENT Drown, of Lehigh, announced recently that the University had received a gift of \$350 to be given in prizes in literature and oratory. The name of the donor is withheld.

PRESIDENT Seth Low, of Columbia, has been invited to deliver the address at the celebration to be held at Dartmouth College next year in honor of the centennial anniversary of the graduation of Daniel Webster from that institution.

IN the annual debate with Pennsylvania, at the Academy of Music, on March 9, the University of Michigan was declared victorious. Pennsylvania upheld the affirmative side of the question, "Resolved, That the Formation of Trusts Should Be Opposed by Legislation." On the same date Dickinson won from State on the question, "That prior to the War Great Britain Was Justified in Her Course of Action towards the Transvaal." Dickinson defended the affirmative.

A NUMBER of young American college men have been chosen by the authorities of the Paris Exposition to act as guides, interpreters and guards at the Exposition Grounds. Most of the men have already sailed for Paris in order to become acquainted with their duties. Among the colleges represented are: Harvard, Cornell, Oberlin, Chicago and Michigan.